

water course, coming through an adjoining field into the river, the sides of which are covered by bushes, vines and several trees, up came from the ground, where they had been feeding among the bushes and weeds, a flock of about eight Redpolls (*Acanthis linaria*). They perched on a little sapling, closely together, about twenty feet from me and I eyed them intently through a glass, but after a few moments they flew up into a tree, about fifty feet high, and thence, after a few moments, away and did not alight again as far as I could see. I saw their crimson caps plainly, they fairly glowed in the bright light of this clear, frosty day.

On February 5, last, I saw at the same locality a flock of about eight American Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra minor*). They were not feeding just then and were shy. They allowed me to take one good and longing look at them and immediately departed for regions unknown. This was the first week of the long, cold spell we had this winter, lasting through the whole of February.

Some more northern visitors were here this winter, which I had never before seen. On November 16, last, while walking over a common or old meadow at the base of Wills Mountain, I flushed a fine Snowflake (*Plectrophenax nivalis*). It was not at all shy and allowed of close approach. It was not cold that day, about 32°, and there had been no storms or snow before. It must have become separated from its companions by mistake, for I could see no more that day. On February 8, however, at the same place, right near houses, I saw three more Snowflakes, their feathers more soiled than those of the one seen in November. At this time also it was very cold with much snow on the ground and at times stormy.

It may also be worthy of mention, that during this cold spell, at which the proverbial 'oldest' resident was surprised, there were hundreds of Prairie Horned Larks (*Otocoris alpestris praticola*) about the city, even, on account of the snow covering all fields and hills, coming into the streets of the city and sharing with the English Sparrows their usual delicacies of this and other seasons. They usually are here somewhat later and are then found first on the bare spots on the hillsides, where the snow has melted.—G. EIERIG, *Cumberland, Md.*

February Water Birds of Elsinore Lake, California.—*Colymbus holboëlli*. HOLBELL'S GREBE.—We had hardly expected to find this grebe on Lake Elsinore, but were pleasantly surprised by finding a dead specimen on the shore. It was much decomposed but was plainly an immature bird just getting the adult plumage.

Podilymbus podiceps. PIED-BILLED GREBE.—It seems rather strange that we should not have seen either of the typical Californian Grebes, although of course they might have been there without our knowledge. The pied-billed variety was common all over the lake, keeping well out from shore, however, as they were much shot at.

Larus occidentalis. WESTERN GULL.—These gulls, as well as all others, were very rare on the lake: the result of much persecution. We saw but two or three during our stay.

Sterna maxima. ROYAL TERN.—There was but one flock of these on the lake, numbering about fifteen. They appeared to feed on the rotting vegetation along the lake shore; a rather unusual thing for a tern. I should think.

Pelecanus trachyrhynchus. WHITE PELICAN.—These birds have hitherto been one of the commoner birds of Elsinore Lake, but this year (1902) there has been but one flock of five. It is a fine sight to see a flock of these pelicans rise from the water, with slow beats of their great black-tipped wings.

Merganser americanus. AMERICAN MERGANSER.—I saw but one of these ducks, although they are said to be fairly abundant. It was a drake in full summer plumage and, being quite close, I easily identified him.

Anas boschas. MALLARD DUCK.—Although supposedly common, we saw but three or four of these, and attributed their scarcity to the lateness of the season.

Anas americana. WIDGEON.—Widgeons abounded in all parts of the lake and their shrill yet mellow whistle, sounding like the syllables *hue, hue, hue*, with a strong accent on the second, was to be heard from every side.

Nettion carolinensis. GREEN-WINGED TEAL.—This beautiful little duck was common, though scattered over all the shallower parts of the lake. They seemed to spend over half their time on land, sunning themselves on the flats.

Spatula clypeata. SHOVELLER.—These handsome birds were the most in evidence of all the ducks. Their rattling cries were deafening when a flock rose, mingled with the quack of Mallard and Teal, and the whistle of Widgeon. The Shovellers were much tamer than the other species of duck, sometimes allowing approach to within twenty or thirty yards.

Dafla acuta. PINTAIL.—The Pintails were rather rarer than most of the other ducks. The long, pointed tail of the drake and graceful, swan-like neck of the female, made identification easy.

Aythya vallisneria. CANVASBACK.—This was by far the rarest duck on the lake, being only of casual occurrence. I got quite close to an old male of this species, and easily identified him. There are few finer ducks than this, the sportsman's favorite and the epicure's delight.

Erismatura dominicensis. RUDDY DUCK.—This curious little duck, so unlike the other members of the Anatidæ, shared, with the Shoveller, the honor of being the most abundant duck on the lake. No doubt there were far more Ruddies than Shovellers, but the small size and diving habits of the former render them inconspicuous.

Anser albifrons gambelii. AMERICAN WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE.—There was a large flock of these geese on the lake, numbering over a hundred. They made four regular flights daily, never varying more than fifteen minutes. It was a sight worth seeing to witness the long strings of great birds leave the lake and fly to the grain fields, ten miles away.

Chen hyperborea. SNOW GOOSE.—Although they do not spend the winter there, as do the other geese, the Snow Goose often stops for a few days on the lake. Two years ago I witnessed the alighting of a flock of these geese, that, at the lowest estimate of several persons present, numbered three or four thousand.

Branta canadensis. CANADA GOOSE.—The Canada Goose, the finest of all American waterfowl, is well represented on Elsinore Lake. At the time of my stay there was a flock of seventeen, making the same regular flights, and behaving exactly as the other geese did.

Ardea herodias. GREAT BLUE HERON.—We saw three or four of these birds during our stay, some fishing in the shallows, others soaring in great circles in the air. They were unusually wild, doubtless having been much shot at.

Recurvirostra americana. AMERICAN AVOCET.—One flock of five of these birds was observed feeding on the mud-flats. These were the only ones we saw, although given to understand that they were by no means rare.

Limosa fedoa. MARBLED GODWIT.—Our observations of this bird were confined to one specimen found dead and partly decomposed. Its long, slightly upcurved bill and brown mottled plumage at once identified it.

Tringa minutilla. LEAST SANDPIPER.—These interesting little birds were common on the shores of the lake, their shrill, piping cries and tiny bodies being in evidence everywhere.

Ægialitis vocifera. KILLDEER PLOVER.—The Killdeer were common on the south side of the lake, although I saw none on the other side. This is hard to account for, and the only reason I can give is that the south side is clean sand, instead of mud, and shelves off steeply.

Fulica americana. AMERICAN COOT.—This bird was by far the commonest on the lake, there being scarcely a hundred yards of shore without scores of 'Mud-hens,' as they are called. At some points their numbers were incredible, fairly blackening the water.—CHAS. B. NORDHOFF, *Redlands, Calif.*